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Dear Harold:

It was a thrill getting your last mailing that I received today. It is so funny to me that I spent 10 years trying to get a copy of Whitewash, and now I publish books for you!

Tell Jerry McKnight that I am sending him a copy of Waketh. I am so lucky to know you fellows, like I said, its like buying a ticket to the Indy 500 and getting to drive one of the cars.

Speaking of Indy, I went there Saturday as a guest of Caterpillar. We still have a little pull. Dad and I had great seats, and got to see some of our old customers and workers. Hospitality tent and all that good stuff.

Sometimes I think maybe we should have borrowed $50 million and bought the dealership. That is an interesting story, Cat at one time wanted us to do that. But my father always felt loyal to the Whayne family because old man Roy Whayne paid for my grandmother to have her gall bladder removed in like 1937. She is still alive and active at 92. So dad refused to throw out the family and take it over. Of course, I would have had to be the one to work the rest of my life to pay back the $50 million. So, I guess it is better to be a retired millionaire than to actually have to work!

And if I had to repay that kind of money, I wouldn't have had time to read Whitewash.

I guess the two books that have had the most effect on me are WW and Silent Spring. Just read that last year in Texas, they sprayed the most pesticide in years, and still had the worst insects. The spray kills everything, but the bad insects seem to come back quicker. The same thing Rachel Carson wrote in 1962.

Rachel was considered quite a radical in her time. Like you, she was right about almost everything.

I think she was even called a Communist-probably by the pesticide makers.

Betsy is working at the prison and due to renovations, she has to walk across a big yard between the dorms. Apparently the fellows there are quite lonely and several have expressed an interest in having a date with her! She is a little shy and won't tell me exactly what they say, but she has lived a sheltered life and is a little shocked!

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I was a little surprised that Clinton signed the welfare bill. I guess he is a New Democrat- a Republican! While I realize that anything can be improved, I don't think this bill does that.

Pulling several hundred million bucks out of Kentucky does not seem to me to be the answer to poverty. People forget, we had kwashiokor (sp) which is a Third World malnutrition disease, here in Kentucky before food stamps. As an overweight fellow, you can write me down as a radical pro food guy. Hell, I think the right to three meals a day should be in the Constitution.

My favorite bumper sticker says"Won't it be great when we have plenty of money for schools and they have to hold a bake sale to buy another bomber?' Don't think I'll live that long.

It looks now like I may be able to come up in early September. Don't know if Betsy can come, since she started a new job. I would probably come up on Thursday, spend Friday, Saturday, and part of Sunday with you all, then fly back. Southwest fares into Baltimore are very reasonable.

Glad you are feeling better. Brother Larry is making a slow recovery but is improving. I have tried to get my father to send Larry to the Mayo clinic, but he doesn't want to go.But I know some doctors are better than others. So are some lawyers, mechanics and historians.

Anyway, this is a rambling letter. But my working plan is to come up in September.There are a few questions I want to ask you.

Keep up the health improvement. In my medical opinion, you are going to be around to bother Lil for a few more years.

Saw an article on daylily hybrids and thought of Lil yesterday. I think she is the real hero in all this, because she has to put up with guys like me! She is a sweetheart and you are lucky to have her. I saw a young woman in Indy that looked like I think Lil must have looked when she was younger. Of course, she was stunningly beautiful! Just like Lil is today.

Peace

Bill Bill

Say "Hi" to Lil!